


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Approved For Release 2005/06/06 : CIA-RDP71B00364R000600110006-4
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DCI:

The extraordinary measures
you have taken to keep
your Committee informed at
all times, on your initiative,
is not adequately covered -

If this is important, to you,
suggest it be added -

I doubt that all the persuasion
in the world will deter the
proponents from proceeding -

4/5/63 



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 25 March 1963 requesting the comments of the Central Intelligence Agency on S. J. Res. 61, "To establish a Joint Committee on Foreign Information and Intelligence."

The proposed Joint Resolution contemplates the establishment of a Joint Committee for both Foreign Information and Foreign Intelligence activities. The informational aspects of this resolution are not within my field of competence and responsibility. However, I do not believe that the two functions should be considered in one Committee. At the present time, they are handled by different Committees of the Congress. Foreign informational activities are overt. On the other hand, intelligence activities to which the proposed Joint Committee would probably direct its chief attention are largely of a secret character and are not directly related to the foreign informational activities of the Government.

For some years there have been established Subcommittees of the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees of both Houses which have specific jurisdiction over CIA matters. We report to these Subcommittees in accordance with their requests and provide them with whatever material they wish. We also receive requests for appearances from other Committees of the Congress. We have responded to these requests for intelligence briefings from your Committee, from the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, from House Foreign Affairs and a number of other Committees. The creation of the proposed Joint Committee would not, I believe, lessen the desire of those Committees

for Agency appearances. You may recall that while appearing before your Committee on March 6, 1962 I expressed the view that a Joint Committee oriented to the intelligence function would quite possibly make the matter of appearances before other Committees, including Senate Foreign Relations, more complicated than it is now.

As the Director of Central Intelligence, I have the duty, subject to the National Security Council, to carry out the Agency's statutory responsibility to coordinate the foreign intelligence activities of the several intelligence organizations of the Government. These intelligence organizations are integral parts of departments or agencies responsible to different Committees of the Congress. The Armed Services Committees of the Senate and House have legislative jurisdiction with respect to the Central Intelligence Agency. The creation of the proposed Joint Committee to make continuing studies of each intelligence agency of the United States might thus create jurisdictional problems since there is no evidence that any of the present Committees having responsibility have indicated either the desire or willingness to cede jurisdiction over the Central Intelligence Agency or the intelligence components of the departments concerned.

Those who support a Joint Committee on Intelligence have pointed to the establishment of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and its operation for sixteen years as a precedent for the establishment of a Joint Committee on Intelligence. While I have the highest regard for the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and worked closely with it during my tenure as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, I do not believe the two situations are parallel. Atomic energy matters are primarily centered in one Agency, i. e., the Atomic Energy Commission and as I have indicated earlier, intelligence functions exist in several departments and agencies. Also, there is considerable legislation required in the atomic energy field which is not the case with respect to intelligence matters.

While the method through which the Congress informs itself on the activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the other foreign intelligence activities of the Government is a matter for the Congress

to determine, I believe the matters discussed above are pertinent in consideration of the establishment of a Joint Committee on Intelligence. I might add that I am satisfied with the existing arrangement.

The Bureau of the Budget has no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone
Director